

FISCAL NOTE

HB 3353 - SB 3329

March 19, 1998

SUMMARY OF BILL:

- Requires certain actions by state and local government entities in order to shield minors from pornographic and obscene materials available on publicly purchased computers via the Internet
- Requires the Department of Personnel to promulgate rules to govern the usage of state computers, the Internet and electronic mail by the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches of state government as well as by counties, cities and metropolitan governments. The bill takes effect July 1, 1999.
- Requires public schools that operate computers with Internet access that is available to children under the age of 18, to install by January 1, 1999, and maintain appropriate software to shield users from adult obscene matter, child pornography and pornographic material that is harmful to minors.
- Requires public libraries to install by January 1, 1999, and maintain appropriate software to shield users from obscene and pornographic matter that is harmful to minors or the public libraries could choose to permit access to such computers by such children only when they are accompanied and monitored by their parent, guardian, or by other authorized adult or library personnel.
- Requires the information systems council to develop and make available guidelines and technical assistance to aid state and local governments and public libraries in complying with these provisions. The council shall research and timely report to the General Assembly on the availability of client based and server based filtering software, their ability to employ such software on all Internet services provided by the state computer network to state and local users, and their recommendations on the implementation of a protection plan to improve upon and carry out the purposes of this bill.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures* - Exceeds \$100,000

Estimate reflects the amount of increase in expenditures to state and local governments to purchase and maintain software to provide blocking services for all computers with internet access, currently without blocking software. The number of computers at public institutions without blocking software is not known, however it is estimated that the number would be sufficient to increase state and local government expenditures by a significant amount. The following assumptions were made:

- According to the Department of Education, Internet filtering equipment and software would have to be placed in the school systems statewide. Because the need for schools is very different from any other governmental entity, this capability would need to be done separately from other entities on the state network. However, this capability is part of the specifications for the ConnectTEN network and for the expansion of this network. At present there are approximately 50,000 computer stations in the local school systems.
- Higher education institutions would be included since students under the age of 18 attend classes.
- At present the Internet is not available on every computer in every public library. Assumes that the cost to the public libraries would be for blocking software for those computers that currently have Internet access and the cost of maintaining such blocking software

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James A. Davenport". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James A. Davenport, Executive Director